

stitutionalist army, and enforced respect for the lives and properties of all foreigners residing in the republic who strictly complied with their obligations as neutrals.

"I wish, however, to call especially to your attention—in order that you may so inform your Government—that yours is the first direct representation made to me in the Benton case, since all of the representations made in this case so far have been made to authorities of the Constitutional government, who only have been dealt with, although I am the supreme chief of the Constitutional army, according to the declaration of Guadalupe, of March 26, 1913. And it is therefore only to me, as I have repeatedly stated on various occasions, that foreign Governments or their representatives should address representations regarding matters of international character."

Will Seek Information.

Gen. Carranza made the following reference to the Benton case:

"I have received through the Acting Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs the telegram which the Honorable, the Secretary of State, William J. Bryan, addressed to you to-day relative to the Benton case.

"In reply thereto I have the honor to inform you that I have to-day telegraphed to the competent Constitutional authorities, requesting them to report to me at once in detail regarding the facts of the case mentioned in the telegram referred to, and as soon as I shall have positive information to convey to you I will do so at once.

"Please believe, and I beg of you to so inform the Department of State, that I most sincerely lament this unfortunate incident, and that the department may rest assured and have confidence that my attitude now, as always, will be inspired by absolute respect for the lives and properties of foreigners and for international law."

GEN. VILLA OPTIMISTIC.

Tells Paris "Matin" He Is Ready to Attack Torreon.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PABIA, March 1.—Gen. Pancho Villa, in a cable dispatch to the *Matin*, says the situation of the Constitutionalists is excellent. They are preparing to march on Torreon, where they will probably meet with resistance.

Villa says he intends to open a State bank at Chihuahua with a capital of 10,000,000 pesos. He says he recognizes Gen. Carranza as his chief.

TO USE BOMBS AT TORREON.

Monoplane for Purpose Is Tried Out by Rebels.

JUAREZ, Mexico, Feb. 28.—Capt. Juan Zalinas and his mechanic, Harold Kather, made a trial flight here to-day of the monoplane which the rebels will use to drop bombs into Federal trenches at Torreon. The aviators took aloft with them a number of artificial bombs, and many flowers, which they dropped into the streets of the Mexican town.

Twelve hundred Mauser rifles and 5,000 Winchester were included in the shipment of arms to Juarez to-day. The ammunition, nearly 2,000,000 rounds, was transported across the frontier in big days. A special train is being made up in the Juarez yards to rush this war material, including the aeroplane, to Chihuahua.

Juarez military officials were advised by telegraph to-day that three batteries of Krupp guns, consigned to Villa, have arrived in New York city from Hamburg. They will be expressed to the border post immediately. The cannon are designed for siege work and the rebels rely on them to do much damage to the fortifications at Torreon.

The Americans serving in the rebel army who were deported by Villa because they would not forsake allegiance to the United States arrived here to-day and were sent across the river to El Paso.

Edwards, alias Thomas Cook, of Wichita, Kan., took out naturalization papers and stayed with the rebels.

CARDEN LANDS IN U. S.

Resents Report That He Opposes Washington Policy.

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 28.—Sir Lionel Carden, British Minister to Mexico, who has been ordered home, arrived here this afternoon on the British cruiser Essex, commanded by Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, coming direct from Vera Cruz. The British envoy remained in this city only two hours, taking a train for Washington and leaving himself from accepting offered hospitality by the urgency of his mission. He will meet the British Ambassador in Washington and said that he will then make a short visit to London and return to Mexico, probably within a month, to complete the year for which he had been sent to Mexico, after which he will go to Rio Janeiro as Ambassador.

Sir Lionel accorded a very brief interview to the newspaper men. He was very careful about answers that Villa. Some he parried and others he declined to answer. He did say he was grieved that the newspapers had placed him in discord with the American policy in Mexico when in fact he had never expressed himself as opposed to or even critic of the attitude of the Washington Government. He had a great admiration for the American people and the American Government.

VILLA WANTS A FIGHT.

Hopes Rumor That Torreon Is Being Evacuated Is Not True.

CHIHUAHUA, Feb. 28.—A persistent rumor was circulated here to-day that the Federals are evacuating Torreon. Gen. Villa said he had received no such information and did not believe the report. "It is not true," he said, "as I would rather have the Federals stay in Torreon and get a good licking."

Asked when he would go south to begin the attack on Torreon, Villa said it was impossible to say at present. He said he was not waiting for Gen. Carranza to arrive here.

With a view to improving the Constitutional financial situation, negotiations were opened by Villa to-day with a mining company and other large sellers of bullion for the purchase of \$5,000,000 in silver bars, to be held as a reserve against the issue of bills. Gen. Chao said the contract would probably be signed at once. Payment is to be guaranteed, he said, by the rents of the haciendas, houses and farms and the sale of cattle confiscated from the Cientificos.

FEDERAL OFFICERS SHOT.

Rebels Said to Have Executed Three After Capture.

BROWNVILLE, Tex., Feb. 28.—It is reported here that fifty Mexican Federal soldiers and three officers were captured by Constitutionalists on a bridge at Rodriguez, between Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey, Wednesday. The officers were promptly executed, the reports say.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S HEALTH.

Reports Here That He Is Ill Not Considered.

There were persistent rumors in this city yesterday concerning President Wilson's health. The President was said to be quite ill.

This Sun's Washington correspondent reported that the rumors seemed exaggerated. In Washington it was said that while many stories concerning the President's health were being circulated Mr. Wilson appeared to be in good health and his friends have assured inquirers that he has no serious ailment, although very susceptible to cold, as he has always been.



GUSTAV BAUCH

The German American who it is said is either a victim or prisoner of Villa's rule.

BENTON SHOT WHILE TALKING TO VILLA

Convincing Evidence That Rancher Was Murdered Is Found.

SENT TO WASHINGTON

British Subject Was Unarmed When He Went to See Rebel.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Detailed evidence, which is accepted as impossible of refutation, as to how William S. Benton, the British rancher, met his death has been received in Washington. This evidence bears out completely the accounts of the rancher's fatal encounter with Gen. Villa, which have heretofore lacked corroboration, and upholds the charge that Benton was murdered.

This evidence, which has been laid before all persons in Washington having an official connection with the Benton investigation, shows that Benton was shot while in Villa's office in Juarez. It also establishes the fact that Benton went to Juarez wholly unarmed and that there was no evidence that the rancher attempted to assassinate Villa.

Officials who have had an open mind toward the case are now convinced that Benton was first shot either by Villa personally or at his direction while in the rebel chief's office in Juarez. As his body was later fired into it is not known whether the first wound inflicted was by a revolver with a revolving cylinder or not.

Inquiry Plan Going On.

These developments caused the solemn and deliberate preparations now being made for a commission of American and British representatives to view the body of Benton, said to be in Chihuahua, to pale into a matter of secondary importance in fact. In Washington, taking seriously the contemplated expedition to Chihuahua on Villa's invitation, although the State Department is going ahead with plans for acting on the rebel leader's offer.

In view of the convincing evidence now in possession of those most deeply interested in the case there is talk that Villa should not be honored by the sending of a commission to Chihuahua to view what ever may be presented as the body of Benton. It is regarded as almost an insult to Villa's intelligence to assume that he will permit the body of Benton to be viewed in Chihuahua or anywhere else as long as it is in such condition as to corroborate what is now the accepted account of how the British rancher met his death.

It developed further to-night that instead of yielding to the urgings of his advisers to facilitate an adjustment with the Governments of the United States and Great Britain in the Benton case Gen. Carranza is adopting such obstructive tactics as are available to him. It is understood he is likely soon to make it known that he considers the United States Government has no business interfering in the Benton case on behalf of the British Government and that his official conduct as chief of the revolutionary forces will be governed accordingly.

Carranza Seeking Recognition.

In some quarters this attitude upon the part of Carranza is construed as an attempt to force the British Government to recognize him and come to him for an adjustment of the Benton case. If so he is wasting his time, according to officials here, for if anything has been clear here in the last week it has been that Great Britain insists on regarding the Benton case as exclusively in the hands of the United States.

The intimation regarding Carranza's attitude, of which something more definite is expected soon, are accepted here as demonstrating that the first chief of the rebel army is not proving amenable to the desires of his advisers, particularly the legal advisers of the Constitutional government, in their effort to bring Villa to a realization of the difficulties his conduct had brought upon the revolutionary movement, and failing in that quarter, undertook to accomplish their purpose through Carranza. They even suggested that Carranza offer to pay Great Britain an indemnity for Benton's killing, but to-night's indications are that Carranza, far from accepting this suggestion, will adopt an attitude disappointing to the Washington Administration.

Meantime at the State Department today preparations went forward for the dispatch of a commission to Chihuahua to view the body of Benton, which, Villa says, is "interred in the most honored cemetery" in the State of Chihuahua. Mr. Bryan having gone to Richmond on a speaking trip for which, it was said at his office, he was to receive the usual compensation, the matter was left to the direction of John Bassett Moore, counselor of the State Department.

Whether or not the positive evidence received in Washington to-day regarding the circumstances of Benton's death will cause the British Government to withdraw its decision to send two representatives to Chihuahua has not yet been made known.

BENTON INQUIRY TO BEGIN TO-MORROW

British Consul Is Expected to Go to Chihuahua Next Week.

COMMISSION IS NAMED

American Envoy Will Watch Villa's Conduct in Torreon Battle.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 28.—Formal exchange of calls has been occupying the greater part of British Consul Perceval's time since he arrived here and he has made little headway in the investigation of the Benton execution in Juarez.

Collector Z. L. Cobb, Gen. Hugh L. Scott and United States Consul T. D. Edwards have called at his hotel to pay their respects to the representative of the British Government. Mr. Perceval went to Fort Bliss to see Gen. Scott this afternoon and was shown over the reservation and the Mexican Federal prison camp. Many persons have called on the Consul at his hotel, but because of the number of formal calls he has received and must return he has devoted only a portion of his time to the investigation.

It is expected that the Consul's investigation of the Benton affair will begin in earnest Monday and a large number of witnesses will be heard in private. Mr. Perceval has not yet accepted the offer to go to Chihuahua on a special train, but will probably do so next week. The commission that will accompany him will probably be composed of George C. Carothers, Vice-Consul at Torreon; James R. Hamilton of El Paso, Major Wilson E. Davidson and C. J. Malins, surgeons at Fort Bliss, who will go as the surgical experts to examine the body. American Consul Letcher will assist the commission at Chihuahua.

Will Watch Villa in Battle.

Vice-Consul Carothers will probably leave Monday ahead of the commission as

he wishes to arrange for the protection of foreigners at Torreon during the expected battle at that place and if Villa leaves for Torreon before the commission reaches Chihuahua Mr. Carothers will accompany the rebel General so that he can watch Villa's conduct toward foreigners. The Consul, on instructions from Secretary Bryan at Washington, asked Villa for such permission and says Villa readily granted it.

The search for Gustav Bauch and other missing Americans continues without result. An examination at Alpine, Tex., of the body found near there proved that it was not the body of Bauch, although the face resembled the picture furnished by Bauch's sister.

Dr. T. J. McCamant of El Paso was a prisoner in Juarez for about two hours this morning. The doctor drove across the river in an automobile which carried a physician's red cross. Suspicion on the part of the authorities caused him to be detained until he had satisfied them he was not a spy. When released he got a passport from Col. Avila, garrison commander, and an apology was made for his detention.

Plans for the reception of Gen. Carranza are going forward in the border city. Officials left behind by Villa continue, although mildly, to deny that there is an open breach between Villa and Carranza, but they fail to say why Carranza delayed his coming to this section three months after Villa took Juarez and consented to come—if he is coming—only after Villa's permanent departure from Juarez to take command at Torreon.

Carranza's Route.

Carranza is reported to be leaving Nogales this afternoon. It was announced at Nogales that Carranza would travel across the country, keeping just south of the Arizona line, on his way to Juarez. From Nogales Carranza's route will be by rail to Chihuahua, overland to Fronteras and into the State of Chihuahua. He will be accompanied by Adrian A. Benavides, special envoy sent to Villa to confer with him recently. Benavides has just returned to Nogales from Juarez.

Fernando Palacios, second officer of the gunboat the *Cresce*, which recently mulcted at Topolobampo and joined the Constitutionalists, arrived to-day at Nogales to talk with the rebel chief.

Rodriguez Malpica, Jr., Mayor of Topolobampo, also came to confer with Carranza.

A Mexico city dispatch says that Senor Diebold, Inspector of Consuls on the American border, has been instructed by the United States Government to investigate the killing of Clemente Vergara, an American citizen, by the Federal troops near Laredo.

Consul Diebold said to-day that he had nothing for publication in regard to the Vergara affair.

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COLQUITT STILL WAITING.

Has No Word From Bryan Regarding Extradition.

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 28.—No reply has been received from Secretary of State Bryan to Gov. Colquitt's message of yesterday submitting the direct question as to whom shall executive warrants for extradition be submitted in the Mexican border States.

Capt. Sanders of the Texas Rangers notified the Governor to-day that he has

filed complaint against the persons guilty of stealing the horses of Vergara, the American citizen said to have been shot by Mexican Federals, and has forwarded copies of the complaint to the Governor. Until the Governor receives word from Washington extradition proceedings will be impossible. In case the accused soldiers are brought across the border every precaution will be made to protect them and assure them a fair jury trial.

Gov. Colquitt is preparing a long letter to Secretary Bryan in which he will present his views on the Mexican situation and the position of Texas.

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The "Wire Chief" controls the movements of several forces of expert workmen. These workmen are trained to make repairs to intricate and delicate Central Office apparatus, subscribers' lines, telephone cables and any part of the telephone equipment that is used in supplying your service.

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